



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2009

No. 113

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, D.C.,
July 24, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EARL BLUMENAUER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, Who rewards the just service of Your people and never forgets those who offer the ultimate sacrifice of their lives to protect others, we praise You and we thank You for those who serve as Capitol Police here in the Nation's Capital.

As we honor the memory of Officer Jacob Chestnut and Detective John Gibson later today with a moment of silence, we now pray for all those who presently commit themselves to serve as a security force that shields government workers and the public from harm and danger. May their service never be compromised or be taken for granted by others.

Lord, protect, guide and encourage all those women and men who give of themselves for the good of others in public service. Reward them and their families with peace and security in this life. Answer their prayers and all the longings of their hearts for a better world in the future.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CAPPS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 56. Joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate, sitting as a court of impeachment in the trial of Samuel B. Kent, former District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, upon articles of impeachment exhibited against him and upon the receipt and exhibit of House Resolution 661, has dismissed the articles of impeachment and has adjourned sine die.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WE NEED TO BREAK THE HOLD INTEREST GROUPS HAVE ON OUR NATION

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. The health care debate ends up being a debate about the legitimacy of our political system. If this is truly a government of the people, by the people and for the people, then why do we not already have a health care system which meets the needs of all the people? Is it because we have a market-based, for-profit health care system? Why do we have 50 million Americans uninsured and another 50 million Americans underinsured? Why are most bankruptcies connected to people being so heavily in debt for hospital bills?

America faces not only a health crisis but a spiritual crisis when health insurance and other interest groups stand between the people and their government extracting the wealth of our Nation and appropriating it to a few at the expense of the many and pressing upon the many the burden of illness and the brevity of life.

It is time to break the hold these interest groups have on our government. When we do, our Nation will be more healthy and more free.

COMMONSENSE HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, the worst State for health insurance in the country is New Jersey at \$5,500 a patient. The best is California at \$2,500 each. California has lawsuit reform to reduce the need for expensive defensive medicine and larger insurance pools to lower average risk

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H8711